

Modern Segregation

In Philadelphia, you can be crossing the street and be called a “Nigger” by some white guy zipping by in a car. I can say that because it happened to me, more than once. It was like some sort of badge of honor or something. You always have to watch for a bottle being thrown from a car at night. You can forget about fair treatment in the alley where you sleep. I have been to Northeast Philadelphia, and trust me, you don’t want to be out there by yourself at night. In the section that the following story is referring to, you can forget it, just don’t be their. Racism is just as bad in South Philly.

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Philadelphia swim club discrimination case settled

By Lauren DiSanto, NBCPhiladelphia.com

The Justice Department announced a settlement agreement Thursday in a Philadelphia-area racial discrimination case dating back to June 2009.

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During that summer, Creative Steps Day Camp of Northeast Philadelphia paid The Valley Swim Club in Huntingdon Valley for pool access for summer campers. After their first day of swimming, the camp's money was refunded and [campers were told not to return](#).

Several campers claimed they heard pool members making racial comments while they were at the club.



The settlement agreement for \$1.1 million dollars is to be split among the 73 African-Americans involved in the case.

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At the time, Valley Swim Club officials said race had nothing to do with it and that there

were too many children for the lifeguards on duty.

The Justice Department spent months investigating along with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission and [found it was racial hostility](#) that prompted club members to ban the African-American children from the pool.

The Valley Swim Club [filed for bankruptcy](#) in November 2009. It [was sold](#) in June 2010 for \$1.46 million.

According to the settlement, \$65,000 will be set aside from the proceeds of the property sale to create a diversity leadership council between members of Creative Steps Day Camp and former Valley Club members. The council will work together to provide activities between the groups to include swimming, field trips and camps.

The settlement agreement is awaiting approval from the Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. It's already been approved by a District Court judge.

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“This settlement provides significant opportunity to children who were denied an opportunity based on their skin color,” said JoAnn Edwards, executive director of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, in a release issued Thursday. “Our hope is that this case serves as prevention for years to come and a reminder that discrimination is illegal and has no place in Pennsylvania.”